

REMARKS

This amendment is offered in response to the Office Action of September 25, 2006.

Upon entry of this amendment, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the above referenced application. Claims 1, 3-7, 9-11, and 13-19 remain in the application. Claims 1, 7 and 11 have been amended to include the features of claims 2, 8, and 12, respectively, which have been canceled. Support for the amendments can be found in the original specification, claims and/or figures. In this regard, no new matter has been introduced.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 4, and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamamoto et al. (*Yamamoto*) JP Publication 2002-236527. In response, Applicant has amended claims 1 and 11 to include the limitations of claims 2 and 12, respectively, which were not anticipated by *Yamamoto*. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the 102(b) rejections of claims 1, 4 and 11 be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 3, 7, 9, 11 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Pappalardo et al. (*Pappalardo*) US Publication 20040019814. In response, Applicant has amended claims 1, 7 and 11 to include the limitations of claims 2, 8 and 12, respectively, which were not anticipated by *Pappalardo*. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the 102(b) rejections of claims 1, 3, 7, 9, 11 and 13 be withdrawn.

The remaining claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Pappalardo* and further in view of U.S. Patent #6,333,650 issued to Amin et al. (*Amin*). In response, Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Pappalardo generally relates to controlling dissipated power in a system-on-chip system. As taught, each of a plurality of blocks contains a power register to receive power control instructions to selectively control the respective power control module (see Abstract).

In contradistinction to *Pappalardo*, however, claim 1, as amended, recites:

A method comprising:
selectively enabling or disabling outputs of voltage regulator controllers in an electronic appliance based at least in part on settings stored in non-volatile memory, wherein the settings stored in non-volatile memory comprise a series of delay times assigned to voltage regulator controllers.

Pappalardo contains no teaching or suggestion of selectively enabling or disabling outputs of voltage regulator controllers in an electronic appliance based at least in part on settings stored in non-volatile memory. In fact, *Pappalardo* teaches away from claim 1 by teaching control of power dissipation instead of voltage regulator controller outputs. In this regard, *Pappalardo* does not appear to contemplate discrete voltages to be controlled, but instead total power dissipation. As such, *Pappalardo* teaches reducing the dissipated power when necessary by clock gating and bus encoding (see paragraph 0017), and not by disabling outputs of voltage regulator controllers. Furthermore, Applicant is unable to find a teaching in *Pappalardo* of settings stored in non-volatile memory.

Applicant notes that *Amin* is not cited as curing the deficiencies of *Pappalardo* outlined above. Therefore, since neither *Pappalardo* nor *Amin* teach all the elements of claim 1, no combination of *Pappalardo* and *Amin* can render obvious this claim. Applicant notes that independent claims 7, 11, and 16 also contain the elements of claim 1 and are also patentable for at least the reasons presented above in reference to claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the §103(a) rejection of claims 1, 7, 11 and 16 be withdrawn.

Applicant notes that claims 3-6, 9-10, 13-15, and 17-19 depend from patentable base claims 1, 7, 11 and 16 (respectively), and are therefore patentable at least based upon their

dependency. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the §103(a) rejection of claims 3-6, 9-10, 13-15, and 17-19 be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing arguments, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 3-7, 9-11, and 13-19 are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at 503-712-1610 if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges to our Deposit Account number 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
Philip R. Lehwald, et. al

Date: May 21, 2007

/David L. Guglielmi Reg. No. 55,229/
David L. Guglielmi
Reg. No. 55,229
Agent for Applicant

c/o Blakely, Sokoloff, Taylor & Zafman, LLP
12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026
(503) 684-6200